

A Sandwich Island Slanderer Squelched

The following article, from the San Francisco *Monitor*, of April 15, 1885, in reply to an article which appeared in the Honolulu *Pacific Commercial Advertiser* of a previous date, is published by request:

A subscriber residing in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands, sends us a copy of the *Pacific Commercial Register* of that place, which is evidently edited by some English descendant of Ananias of old, as from a sample of the fearful falsehoods contained in the article before us, the John Bull writer is decidedly one of the most diabolical defacers of the truth that ever played the roll of free-lunch fiend in San Francisco.

Here is an extract that even the infamous Ananias himself might be ashamed of, so entirely false is it in every sentence and statement:

"An appeal to Irishmen has been issued by a number of gentlemen of Irish birth in San Francisco, in which complaint is made that while the British Government robbed the Irish people of their freedom, 'the English press, as a body, have persistently sought to rob them even of their good name.' Such is the legend in the *Adm.* Verily, these gentlemen of Irish birth and breeding have become exceedingly sensitive of late. We remember the occasion of a large Irish Land League meeting in San Francisco, during which Judge Toole, who presided, received a dispatch, announcing the assassination of Lord Frederick Cavendish and Secretary Burke, in Phoenix Park, Dublin. When he interrupted the proceedings to announce that fact, the meeting rose and cheered to the echo. These protesting 'gentlemen' were present and participated in the murderous exultation of the moment; and Mr. Toole was subsequently elected a Superior Court Judge as an acknowledgment of his sympathy with the Irish cause.

At previous meetings the most transcendent sentiments were uttered regarding England, and upon one notable occasion, Father Rooney, an Irish Catholic priest, urged large contributions to the Land League fund, on the ground 'that every dollar given to the cause of Ireland was a bullet directed to the heart of an Englishman.' This Christian sentiment was likewise applauded, and the foremost Irish gentleman, who sat by, opened their wallets and flung out the shining coin to swell the Irish assassination fund. Some of the San Francisco papers had the courage to protest against this atrocious sentiment, but the bulk of them were quite lost the pure-gold 'gentlemen of Irish birth' should withdraw their patronage. Father Rooney did not usually a word or thought, but ministered in holy things from the altar of his church to his sympathetic and approving flock.

The malignant and cowardly calumniation of the good name and reputation of many of the most patriotic Irish-American citizens of San Francisco publishes the foregoing falsehoods knowingly and wilfully, as he pretends that he was cognizant of the truth of what he wrote, when the fact is the brazen bigot had not a scintilla of fact whereon to found his false charges.

It is not necessary to go into any long details in order to denounce the diabolical inventions of this bitter Britisher, as the following extracts from the *Monitor* of May 10th, 1882, and the *Examiner* of the day after the occurrence of the Phoenix Park assassinations, are sufficient refutation of the foul falsehoods fomented by a cowardly creature who well deserves the contempt of every citizen as a contumacious concocter of falsehood:

"At last Monday's meeting of Branch No. 1 of the Land League in Irish-American Hall Judge Toole opened the proceedings with a brief speech, in which he sketched the important events which took place in England and Ireland during the past week and before the assassination of Lord Cavendish and Under-Secretary Burke. He said that there was something singularly suspicious in the appointment of Lord Cavendish to be Chief Secretary for Ireland, the fact being recognized by Parnell, Dillon and their associates. Taken in connection with the proposition that the coroner's laws would be suspended, there was good reason to believe that Ireland would soon again become a peaceful country. But on Saturday evening the news of the most infamous crime of the age came flashing over the wires. Ireland was not the instigator of the deed. The speaker believed that Irish blood did not flow in the veins of these cowardly assassins. The effects of the catastrophe were

disastrous to Ireland and its cause. The knives that struck into the heart of Cavendish struck into the heart of five million Irishmen, and every true patriot would pray that the perpetrators of this execrable transgression be discovered and punished. He believed that the land of their birth was innocent of their parentage of these monsters. But if these dastards were Irishmen, then it became the duty of every one to assist in the capture of the murderers. The honor of Ireland must be vindicated. Judge Toole introduced the following preamble and resolutions at the conclusion of his speech:

"Resolved, By this branch of the Irish National Land League of California. That, apart from the incalculable benefits that might accrue to Ireland from the continued administration of the late Chief Secretary, we deplore the tragic manner of his untimely death at the hands of miscreants yet unknown and as a lamentable calamity to people unto whom he bore the olive branch of reconciliation and joy to the exultant national heart.

"Resolved, That we denounce the assassins of Lord Cavendish and Mr. Burke as enemies of Ireland and humanity, as fiends accursed of God and man, against whom the avenging hand of every Irishman should be lifted until their horrible crimes shall have been expiated on the gallows, and the infamous names of the murderers are transmitted to the detestation of our race forever.

"Resolved, That we are confident in our faith, no member of the Land League of Ireland, nor any man of hope in the national regeneration of Ireland at home or abroad was among those cowardly and inhuman wretches whose hands have shed the blood of the innocent, the stranger and the friend.

"Resolved, That we recommend the Land League of Ireland to offer of its funds sufficient rewards for the apprehension of the murderers to insure their arrest and conviction.

"Resolved, That the Executive of the Land League of California is hereby requested to telegraph to Charles Stewart Parnell that this organization will furnish a special reward of \$5000 for that purpose in order that the assassins may be brought to justice and the good name of Ireland and Irishmen everywhere may be vindicated from the terrible disgrace of the atrocious crimes committed in her name.

"The resolutions were adopted unanimously. Rev. Father Harrington next addressed the meeting, likewise condemning the deed in the strongest terms. He urged the Land Leaguers not to be discouraged, for Ireland now needed its sons and daughters more than ever. The cloud which hung over Ireland's cause would pass away. After a short speech by Mr. Cummings and a collection, which netted \$60, the meeting adjourned."

The foregoing extracts completely squelch the slanders of this Sandwich Island Saxon, and the following extract from the San Francisco daily *Examiner* confirms all the *Monitor* said concerning the assassination of Burke and Cavendish.

"The news of the murder of Lord Cavendish and Under-Secretary Burke last evening occasioned much excitement among the Irish residents of San Francisco. The *Examiner* had scarcely placed the news on its bulletin-board when a dense crowd assembled, and during the evening the sensational dispatch from Dublin was an object of the most intense interest. The prevailing sentiment was one of regret that at the moment when the spouses of Parnell seemed assured, the act of assassins should have so seriously jeopardized the plans of the Land League. Among the leading Land Leaguers there was but the one feeling of hearty condemnation of the murder. Robert Tobin, Jr., who had just returned from a tour of Europe, and who travelled through the most disaffected portions of Ireland, expressed to an *Examiner* reporter his sincere regret for the unexpected outrage. Said Mr. Tobin: 'I am satisfied from my observation in Ireland that the Land League idea has lately given place to a Home Rule movement, and the late success of Parnell showed that Ireland was on the eve of gaining a government of her own. It is to be feared that the murder of Secretary Cavendish will arouse the most violent opposition to the Irish cause among the Liberal members of Parliament. While there is no reason to believe that the League will not escape the responsibility if the Wingo can help it. The English members of Parliament all say now: 'We have abolished coercion, and here are the first fruits of the increased freedom.' Mr. Tobin stated that Mr. Burke was very unpopular in Ireland. He shared the odium with Foster, as he had been identified with several unpopular administrations of Irish affairs.

"D. J. Toole, A. J. Donnelly, Mr. McCormick, editor of the *Monitor*; Philip A. Roach, Daniel Sheehin, John Cavanaugh and M. F. Cummings, all expressed their condemnation of the murder as earnestly as Mr. Tobin had. They regarded the crime as calculated to do grievous injury to the cause of freedom in Ireland, though the Land League was not responsible for it."

Relative to the charge which this despicable detractor brings against Rev. Father

Rooney, it is scarcely necessary to say—in view of the scathing rebuke his ruffianly charges have already received—that it is as baseless as the rest of the malicious inventions of this incorrigible falsifier.

The news of the Phoenix Park assassinations arrived in this city on Saturday, May 6th, and on the Sunday following a representative of the *Monitor* called upon Father Rooney to ascertain his views upon the horrible outrage. Here is the report of Father Rooney's sentiments of repugnance at the great crime, as we find it in the *Monitor* of May 10th, 1882:

"A reporter of the *Monitor* called upon Father Rooney, on Sunday last, and gleaned the following opinions from him concerning the assassination, during a brief interview: 'From a Catholic and a National stand point,' said Father Rooney, 'Irishmen must abhor the murder of Lord Cavendish and his Under-Secretary. Every friend of Ireland must know and in his heart feel, that the severest blow that could be leveled at their cause and in its champions would be the proving that the Land Leaguers had anything to do with so foul a crime. The friends of the Irish cause could have no interest in the murder of those men. It is not likely that men who have been so patient under all kinds of insults and injuries up to this, and who have proved themselves so honorable all along, would have so far debased themselves as to become, in any sense, or under any circumstances, approvers, much less, perpetrators of so diabolical a deed. If the friends of Ireland wished to wreak vengeance on some one representing the cruel and bigoted government of Gladstone, it would not be Cavendish, but the tyrannical and cowardly Foster, who gave them so many opportunities for having their worst passions aroused, that they would select as the victim of their rage. It may be put down, then, as absolutely certain that the Land League is entirely free from the stain of the murder announced.'

We attribute the animosity demonstrated by this debased slanderer of the good name of the Irish citizens of San Francisco entirely to the fact that when their calumniator lived here they refused to recognize him as a person worthy of their association. Hence he has taken this method to 'get even,' with them, thinking that he could fling mud at them from his mid-ocean fortress, and that distance would save him from the just castigation his calumnies deserve. But he will find out his mistake, as—although the Irish race may not be numerously represented in Honolulu—there are men there who are determined that no 'thumping English lies' shall be told on their brethren in California, even though the slanders do emanate from a literary lack who can only bring disgrace to any cause he advocates.

We earnestly hope, therefore, that the Irishmen of Honolulu will have this article re-printed in the other papers on the Islands, so that the people there may learn what a contemptible calumniating creature they have in their midst, and also in order that the citizens of that region may know hereafter what value to place upon the assertions of this characterless John Bull who is so blinded by bigotry as to lead him to wilfully and maliciously libel the character of Californians who cannot but denounce the degraded wretch for the unfounded falsehoods which we have so triumphantly turned upon him, and beneath the bulk of which he will for ever lie buried.

It is a well established and widely-known fact that not a dollar of the Irish Land League of Irish National League Funds were ever donated for dynamite. It is also as well and as generally known that not a cent was ever contributed to these funds for the purpose of promoting the perpetration of crime either in Ireland or out of it. The reports published prove the deep-dyed villainy of this vicious Saxon slanderer of the good name and fame of a cause that is spotless from sin, and upon which the slime of this scorpion English spy can leave no stain.